

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING
2000-14th STREET, N.W., SUITE 420
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
(202) 671-0550

IN THE MATTER OF)	DATE: January 16, 2004
)	
Mehasti F. Behbahani)	DOCKET NO.: 03F-227
Supervisory Contract Specialist)	
Office of Contracting and Procurement)	
6527 Draw Lane)	
Sarasota, Florida 34238)	

ORDER

Statement of the Case

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereinafter OCF) Office of General Counsel following a determination by its Public Information Records Management Division, that pursuant to the D.C. Code §1-1106.02 (2001 Edition), Mehasti F. Behbahani, Supervisory Contract Specialist, Office of Contracting and Procurement, failed to timely file, a Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2002, on or before May 15, 2003 as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 and also failed to file on or before the OCF sanctioned extended filing deadline of June 19, 2003.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated November 17, 2003, OCF ordered Mehasti F. Behbahani (hereinafter respondent), to appear at a scheduled hearing on December 1, 2003 and show cause why she should not be found in violation of the D.C. Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended by D.C. Official Code §§1-1101.01 et seq., and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

OCF alleges that the respondent failed to timely file the statutorily required Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) for calendar year 2002, on or before June 19, 2003.

On December 4, 2003, the respondent transmitted an affidavit to OCF, which stated that her employment with the District Government terminated on December 31, 2002. Respondent subsequently moved to Sarasota, Florida. Respondent further stated that her exit interview did not include information concerning the requirement to file a final Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) with OCF. Respondent filed a fully executed FDS with OCF on December 4, 2003 via facsimile, with the original following via Federal Express on December 5, 2003.

Findings of Fact

Having reviewed the allegations and the record herein, I find:

1. Respondent timely filed a Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF in 2002 for calendar year 2001.
2. Respondent terminated employment with the District Government on December 31, 2002.
3. Respondent was required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF for calendar year 2002, on or before June 19, 2003.
4. OCF issued notices to file to respondent's address of record in Woodbridge, Virginia, which were forwarded to her Sarasota, Florida address by the US Postal Service, but received by her subsequent to the Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance.
5. Respondent filed the required Financial Disclosure Statement on December 4, 2003.
6. Respondent provided a credible explanation for the filing delinquency in that her agency did not inform her of the requirement to file a final FDS with OCF during her exit interview.
7. OCF provided notice to file if the filer ceases to serve prior to May 15th of any year, and within 30 days of any change in information on its Financial Disclosure Statement form.
8. Respondent is currently in compliance with the statute.

Conclusions of Law

Based upon the record provided by OCF, I therefore conclude:

1. Respondent violated D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02.
2. The penalty established at D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), and 3DCMR §§3711.2(aa), 3711.2 and 3711.4 for failure to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day subsequent to the due date.

3. In accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), the respondent may be fined a maximum of \$2,000.00 for failing to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement.
4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.6, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent's explanation for failing to timely file constitutes good cause for suspension of the fine.

Recommendation

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director suspend the imposition of the fine in this matter.

Date

**Jean Scott Diggs
Hearing Officer**

Concurrence

In view of the foregoing, I hereby concur with the Recommendation.

Date

**Kathy S. Williams
General Counsel**

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that the fine in this matter be hereby suspended.

Date

Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Director

SERVICE OF ORDER

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order.

Rose Rice
Legal Assistant

NOTICE

Pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.5 (1999), any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16th day following the issuance of a decision and order, if the respondent does not request an appeal of this matter. If applicable, within 10 days of the effective date of this order, please make a check or money order payable to the D.C. Treasurer, c/o Office of Campaign Finance, Suite 420, 2000-14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.